Amateur Radio Newsline™ Report 1335 – March 14, 2003

Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1335 with a release date of Friday, March 14 2003 to follow in 5-4-3-2-1.

The following is a Q-S-T. The FCC has a new tool to keep people honest and the ARRL tries again in Congress. These stories are first on Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1335 coming your way right now.

(Billboard Cart Here)

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RADIO RULES: FCC SAYS YOU HAVE TO TELL THE TRUTH

If you have to contact the FCC, be sure to tell the truth. This is because the Commission has revised its own rules to strengthen the requirements for the submission of truthful statements to the agency. Amateur Radio Newsline's Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, tells you who is affected and what it all means:

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As amended, section 1.17 of the Commission's Rules prohibits written and oral statements of fact that are intentionally incorrect or misleading. It also prohibits written statements of fact that are made without a reasonable basis for believing that the statement is correct and not misleading.

In requiring that submitters of written statements in fact-based adjudications and investigations have a reasonable basis to believe that what they say is correct and not misleading, the Commission is imposing on the submitters a duty of due diligence. This includes the obligation to take appropriate affirmative steps to determine the truthfulness of what is being submitted.

The now revised section 1.17 broadens the category of persons subject to its requirements to include any applicant for, or holder of, any Commission authorization. Also subject is any person performing without Commission authorization an activity that requires Commission authorization; any recipient of a Commission citation or letter of inquiry, or any person subject to a Commission or staff investigation

Others covered include those in a proceeding to amend the FM or Television Table of Allotments, any person filing an expression of interest, and, to the extent not already covered, any cable operator or common carrier.

Perhaps the most interesting of these is any person performing without Commission authorization an activity that requires Commission authorization. That's a fancy, legalese way of saying bootleggers. And its telling bootleggers that lying to the Commission can bring with it some pretty hefty penalties.   Consequences far more severe than just the act of unlicensed operation, itself.

The amended rule applies to all investigatory and adjudicatory matters. It does not apply to declaratory ruling or to rulemaking proceedings except for expressions of interest in proceedings to amend the FM or Television Table of Allotments, and tariff proceedings. Attorneys and engineers acting in their representational capacities are not covered by the amended rule.

Simply stated, almost everyone is now subject to the revised and enhanced section 1.17 FCC rule. This includes all of us with Amateur Radio Service callsaigns attached to our names.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, reporting.

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The FCC claims that this new rule is a clearer, more comprehensive, and more focused articulation of the standards for truthful statements than the old rule. The Commission also said that it will enhance the effectiveness of its enforcement efforts. You can read it all at: http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-231908A1.doc and at http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-03-45A1.doc (FCC)

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RADIO RULES: FCC TO CONSIDER RECEIVER STANDARDS

The FCC has decided to consider on an item that it has been extremely reluctant to act on in the past. That being the setting of interference immunity performance specifications for receivers.

Specifically, the FCC says that it will consider a Notice of Inquiry concerning the possibility of incorporating receiver interference immunity performance specifications into its spectrum policy on a broader basis.

It all falls under MM Docket No. 00-39. Its titled Interference Immunity Performance Specifications for Radio Receivers; Review of the Commission's Rules and Policies Affecting the Conversion to Digital Television. You can read more on the web at the U-R-L appearing in the print edition of this weeks Amateur Radio Newsline report. Its all in cyberspace at http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-231820A1.doc (CGC)

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RADIO POLITICS: AR SPECTRUM PROTECTION ACT IN BOTH HOUSES

The ARRL Letter reports that the Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act of 2003 now has been introduced in both chambers of Congress. Idaho Senator Michael Crapo introduced the Senate version of the bill, S 537, on March 6. Its original cosponsors were Senators Daniel Akaka and Larry Craig. Florida Representative Michael Bilirakis put the latest House version of the bill, HR 713, into the legislative hopper on February 12th.

HR 713 and S 537 are twin ARRL initiatives aimed at ensuring the availability of spectrum to Amateur Radio operators. The legislation would protect existing Amateur Radio spectrum against reallocations to -- or sharing with -- other services unless the FCC provides equivalent replacement spectrum elsewhere.

The Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act legislation has already been introduced twice before Congress. League President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, believes this third time could be the proverbial charm. (ARRL)

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Break 1

>From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline, heard on bulletin stations around the world including the K7LIX repeater serving Grants Pass Oregon.

(5 sec pause here)

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HIGH TECH SHOWDOWN: IRAQ MAY TRY TO JAM SATS

I'm Blair Alper, KA9SEQ, with this late breaking story.

If Iraq could tries to jam U.S. military satellites during a possible invasion, it will be in for quite a surprise. This, according to a Pentagon official who hints that the United States already has countermeasures in place.

News reports say that Iraq is reportedly seeking ways to jam the Global Positioning Satellites that would be used to help guide so-called smart bombs. But Brigadier General Franklin Blaisdell who is the Air Force's space operations director says it really can’t be done these days. He says that any enemy that would depend on G-P-S jammers for their livelihood is in grave trouble.

Blaisdell says that, as it did during the 1991 Persian Gulf War, the Defense Department is buying access to commercial communications satellites. This, to help provide the massive bandwidth needed to connect all the high-tech gear a modern army uses. He adds that the military also successfully launched a broadband communications satellite on Monday the 10th.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, Im Blair Alper, KA9SEQ, reporting.

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RESCUE RADIO: HAM RADIO ASSISTANCE REQUESTED IN MA. PLANE CRASH

Ham radio was called out on March 3rd to help locate a missing aircracft. Amateur Radio Newsline’s Norm Seeley, KI7UP, has the rest of the story:

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John Spencer, WA1NTI, was listening to his radio club’s 146.91 MHz repeater in the Pittsfiels Massachusetts area early on Monday morning March 3rd. That’s when John Lindley, WA1ZHM , put out a call looking for hams who could assist in locating a downed aircraft.

According to information provided by Arthur Rowe, N1ORC, Lindley said it was the Massachusetts State Police who requested radio amateurs assist in the search. In fact it was about 4 a.m. when a Lieutenant from the State Police Task Force came knocking on WA1ZHM’s door. At the time the location of the aircraft was unknown and there was a wide search area to cover. The police told Lindley that the agency needed people with radio knowledge and equipment who could help triangulate the location.

Spencer says that the operators who could help out were told to report to the Sheffield Massachusetts Police Department. There they were briefed and shown an area of Beartown State Forest where the crash site was believed to be. The hams were tasked with listening for the airplanes 121.5 MHz Emergency Locator Transmitter and trying to T-hunt its exact location.

Gary Kleinerman, K1SXA, was put in charge of the group of seven hams. The downed aircraft was located by a Search and Rescue helicopter about 3 miles in from where Kleinerman and Spencer had been assigned to search. The chopper pilot also saw that there was at least one survivor.

Due to terrain, another heavy-duty rescue helicopter was called in from Albany New York to help rescue three boys who survived the crash. Unfortunately rescuers found the boys parents and two of their siblings were dead at the scene.

And even though the ham radio operators were not the first to find the downed aircraft, those involved in organizing the search and rescue effort thought enough of the skill of radio amateurs to have them take part. That's why they knocked on WA1ZHM's door in the middle of the night.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Norm Seeley, KI7UP.
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The three hour rescue involved police, fire and E-M-S from Massachusetts and New York. Volunteer manpower for the search came from Massachustts and Connecticut. (N1ORC)

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ENFORCEMENT: NO AUTOMATIC CONTROL FOR YOU

On the enforcement scene, the FCC told David Price, WA6FUL, that he may not operate his repeaters under automatic control. This, while the enforcement Bureau reviews allegations of rules violations.

In a letter to Price from the FCC's Riley Hollingsworth, the Redwood City California ham was informed that these include charges of failure to identify and transmitting false call signs. Price was also warned that continued violations could lead to a fine or license revocation proceedings filed against him. (FCC)

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ENFORCEMENT: DOJ SEIZES WEB SITE DOMAIN USED FOR ILLEGAL ACTIVITY

Sellers of allegedly illegal FM transmitters might want to take heed. Bob Gonsett's CGC Communicator reports that the government has seized a web site used to sell chips designed to circumvent electronic copyright protection. And now a Washington Post news story quotes government officials as indicatinfg that this move could be a harbinger of other such enforcement actions. Its all on-line in cyberspace at http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A7996-2003Feb26.html (CGC)

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RADIO RULES: FCC ADJUSTS ALLOCATIONS BELOW 28 MHZ

Also from the CGC Communicator comes word that the FCC has amended various parts of its rules. This, to implement the decisions from the World Radiocommunication Conferences regarding various frequency bands below 28 MHz.

Affected spectrum and users include the expand A M Broadcast Band, International Broadcast Stations, the Amateur Service, and continued use of 26.110, 26.130, 26.150 and 26.170 MHz by Broadcast Auxiliary Remote Pickup stations. There appeared to be no earthshaking items affecting the Amateur Radio Service. Its too is in cyberspace at http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-03-39A1.doc (CGC)

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NAMES IN THE NEWS: N1WRY BIKES THE SOUTH-EAST

Jason Baack, N1WRY, says that he will be looking for a few good contacts. This, as he bikes across the South-Eastern United States over the next few months.

The SERA Repeater Journal says that Baack will be riding through Georgia and Florida during March as part of his 400 mile trek. His bicycle is equipped with VHF FM and High Frequency SSB gear. For more information please drop by Jason's website at www.n1rwy.com (Repeater Journal)

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HAMVENTION 2003: N8IGS REPLACES KB8OUO AS GENERAL CHAIRMAN

With only 10 weeks till the doors open on Hamvention 2003, Pat Neff, N8IGS, has swapped places with Jim Trangenstein, KB8OUO, and become the event's General Chairman. According to sources close to Hamvention, Trangenstein stepped down because he had changed jobs. This left him little time to full-fill the obligations of the Hamvention's General Chairman's post. Neff says that plans for Hamvention are on-target:

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Pat Neff, N8IGS: "We are planning on having a great 52nd show and see interest picking up as we get closer to Hamvention 2003. And, we continue to look at ways to inprove the show and make it the Amateur Radio event that every ham should experience at least once in their lifetime."
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Hamvention 2003 is slated for May 16th through the 18th at its longtime home at the Hara Arena in Dayton Ohio. More information is on the web at www. hamvention.org (ARNewsline™)

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HAMVENTION 2003: 11TH ANNUAL CONTEST DINNER

Tickets are now on sale for the 11th Annual Dayton Contest Dinner. According

to this years Master of Ceremonies is Tim Duffy, K3LR, this years gathnering will be held on Saturday night, May 17th, at 6:30 PM at the Crowne Plaza Hotel on 5th and Jefferson Streets in downtown Dayton. Rich Strand, KL7RA, is scheduled to be the after dinner speaker and the 2003 Contest Hall of Fame inductees will be formally announced by the CQ WorldWide Contest Director Bob Cox, K3EST.

All dinner ticket orders are handled exclusively by Craig Clark, K1QX at the Radio Bookstore up in Ringe New Hampshire. You can place your order Monday through Friday from 10 AM to 6 PM eastern by calling 1-800-457-7373. International orders must use the comopany's 603-899-6957 direct dial line. For more information please visit www.radio-ware.com on the World Wide Web (K3LR)

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BREAK 2

This is ham radio news for today's radio amateur. From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline with links to the world from our only official website at www.arnewsline.org and being relayed by the volunteer services of the following radio amateur:

(5 sec pause here)

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HAM RADIO IN SPACE: NASA ANNOUNCES PLANS FOR OSP

In his report last week on the future of ham radio in space Roy Neal, K6DUE, mentioned the possibility of a new vehicle to augment the space shuttle fleet. Roy is back this week with more on that part of the story:

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Audio report only. Hear it at www.arnewsline.org
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According to Space Daily, the Orbital Space Plane will be launched using a rocket booster and will land much like an airplane. (ARNewsline™ from news reports)

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HAM RADIO IN SPACE: HAPPY BIRTHDAY AO-11

The OSCAR-11 ham radio satellite celebrated its 19th birthday on March 9th. Almost two decades old, this amazing bird continues to output consistent signals on its 145.826 and 2401.5 MHz. beacons. It also achieved a remarkable 100,000 orbits on October 31st, 2002. (ANS)

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NEW FRONTIERS: THE DCC WANTS YOUR PAPERS

Technical papers are being solicited for presentation at the 22nd Annual ARRL

and TAPR Digital Communications Conference. The gathering is slated for Hartford, Connecticut, from September 19th to the 21st.

These papers will also be published in the Conference Proceedings published by the ARRL. Presentation by the author at the conference is not required for publication. Information on paper submission guidelines are available on-line at www.tapr.org/dcc.

Submission of papers is due by August 5th, 2003 and should be sent to Maty Weinberg, ARRL Headquarters, 225 Main Street, Newington, Connecticut 06111 or by e-mail to maty@arrl.org (WB8IMY, VHF Reflector)

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INTERNATIONAL - AUSTRALIA: THE MORSECODIANS RADIO SHOW

Mark Titterington, W1EOF, says over the web that ABC Australia has a radio program available about the early history of the telegraph called "The MoreseCodians." The program traces the electric telegraph from its invention in 1832 by Samuel Morse until it became obsolete in V-K land in the early 1960s when the last line ceased to function in Australia.

The show’s full summary can be found by taking your web browser to www.abc.net.au/rn/history/hindsight, click on more summeries and then scrolling down to the link "MorseCodians." W1EOF says that he is making arrangements to make the program audio available on the hamnutz.com website. He also plans to distribute it on CD for those that don't have a fast enough internet connection. His e-mail is w1eof@hamnutz.com. (W1EOF)

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INTERNATIONAL - WORLDWIDE: RADIOMINISTRIES.ORG

Radioministries.org is a new website dedicated to assisting missionaries in remote regions with the communications through Amateur Radio. According to the groups Director, Scott Thile, K4SET, many missionary and relief groups are working in areas without access to land based phones, cell phones, or the Internet. These groups must find alternative ways to communicate within the group, and with family, friends and supporters back home.

Thile says that only a small number can afford satellite telephone service. Others must rely on alternate channels including ham radio.

K4SET hopes the new website will be of assistance to those in the missionary field. For more information visit http:// radioministries.org. You can contact Thile by e-mail to k4set@radioministries.org (K4SET)

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DX

In D-X, Peter McKay, G3WQU, who has been active for a couple of years as CN2PM and S07PM from Morocco and the Western Sahara, will be moving to East Timor at the end of March. He operates almost exclusively CW. Look for him operating with a 4 W prefix from his next Q-T-H. (GB2RS)

Also, DL2GAC, who has been active from several Papua New Guinea island groups as P29VMS, has moved on to the Solomon Islands. He plans to be active as H44MS until mid-April. (GB2RS)

And the Balkan Contest Club LZ1KZA will operate with the special event callsign LZ125O through the 31st of March. This to commemorate the 125th anniversary of the liberation of Bulgaria. Activity is on CW, SSB and RTTY on all the HF bands. (Via e-mail)

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THAT FINAL ITEM: A MILESTONE FOR SETI@HOME

And finally this week a story about a screen saver that is close to the hearts of many radio amateurs. Amateur Radio Newline's Henry Feinberg, K2SSQ, is here with the latest on a project called seti@home:

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After what adds up to more than a million years of computation by well over 4 million computers networked worldwide, the SETI@home screensaver that crunches data in search of intelligent signals from space has produced a list of candidate radio sources that deserve a second look. And in a few days the scientists behind the project will use a giant radio telescope to take a second look based on this data.

SETI@home is a more than the usual screen saver. Its actually a very high tech data processing program disguised as a screen saver. It springs into action after a computer is idle for a given length of time. Its purpose is to analyze radio telescope data downloaded to the machine over the Internet, search for strong or unusual signals from space and file a report back.

Many hams world-wide have embraced SETI@home and have it running around the clock on their P-C's. They are the first to tell you that that the project is in keeping with the spirit of Amateur Radio itself.

Now, three members of the SETI@home team will head to Puerto Rico to use the giant radio telescope at Arecibo to revisit up to 150 places in the cosmos. These places in space have been identified as the source of possible signals from intelligent civilizations based on data already processed.

The candidates for that second look are particularly strong signals or ones that have been observed in the same spot more than once. Some of them five or six times. SETI@home project coordinators say that limited analysis of the signals will be done while the team collects the new data. This will permit the observations to be halted and repeated if -- by chance -- a very strong signal reappears.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Henry Feinberg, K2SSQ
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SETI@home users could find out the results of the re-observations within two to three months. More on SETI@home in next weeks Amateur Radio Newsline report. (W6RCL, Published Reports)

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NEWSCAST CLOSE

With thanks to Alan Labs, Amateur News Weekly, AMSAT, the ARRL, the CGC Communicator, CQ Magazine, the FCC, the Ohio Penn DX Bulletin, Radio Netherlands, Rain, the RSGB and Australia's Q-News, that's all from the Amateur Radio Newsline(tm). Our e-mail address is newsline @arnewsline.org. More information is available at Amateur Radio Newsline's(tm) only official website located at www.arnewsline.org. You can also write to us or support us at Amateur Radio Newsline(tm), P.O. Box 660937, Arcadia, California 91066.

For now, with Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, at the editors desk, I’m Jim Damron, N8TMW, and I’m Jeff Clark, K8JAC, saying 73 and we thank you for listening."
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